

Unlocking the Power of Community Partnerships in Driving Green Economy Practices: Lessons from Indonesia's Cases in Agriculture, Forestry, and Waste Management

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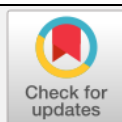
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ABSTRACT

Amidst environmental challenges, natural calamities, poverty, and social disparities, the imperative to nurture sustainable practices that benefit the environment, economy, and society has grown more pronounced. The paradigm of green economics embodies efforts to elevate human well-being while upholding ecological sustainability. In the context of green economics within developing nations, the role of community practices becomes integral through the lens of community partnerships, which bolster community endeavors in achieving their objectives. Nevertheless, the lack of substantial empirical investigations into partnerships related to green economy practices remains conspicuous. This research aims to scrutinize community partnerships' manifestations within the green economy practices domain. Utilizing a qualitative methodology, the study delves extensively into the practices encompassing organic coffee cultivation in Aceh, apiculture in West Sumatra, mangrove conservation in East Kalimantan, and waste management in Jakarta. Data collection involves in-depth interviews, direct observations, and focused group discussions within each locality, subjecting the data to thematic analysis. The study unveils several noteworthy findings. Firstly, community partnerships related to green economy practices emerge as collaborative endeavors that collectively empower communities to address economic and environmental challenges. Secondly, the configurations of community partnerships assume diverse forms, spanning from community-initiated efforts to those instigated by businesses or governmental entities. Thirdly, partnership engagements may involve a single community or extend to multiple communities

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within a region. Lastly, the research identifies establishing robust social institutions within communities as a foundational step toward executing community partnership endeavors that underpin green economic practices within Indonesian society. The social implications of this study furnish invaluable insights for the grassroots implementation of green economic practices. From an academic perspective, this research holds the potential to contribute to the evolution of partnership models within the realm of community development in the context of green economic activities.

Keywords: *Community Partnerships; Conservation; Green Economy; Waste Management*

1. Introduction

A green economy has been identified as an economic opportunity for all levels of society, providing economic benefits and considering environmental sustainability. Various potential green economy practices can be developed more widely and benefit communities in terms of ecology and economy. The practices are also crucial to discuss because they can create new job opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and improve livelihoods ([International Labour Office, 2022](#)). For example, renewable energy projects can create jobs in the manufacturing, installation, and maintenance of equipment; organic agriculture can increase farmers' income due to the increased value of their products; and innovations in waste processing can provide economic benefits.

Community partnership practices can effectively realize and sustain green economy practices ([Tasrin et al., 2016](#)). Community partnership is considered one of the strategies used in community-based interventions. The concept is derived from an ongoing relationship between an external entity and members and organizations within a community. The partnership aims to facilitate the mobilization of resources and knowledge while promoting community-based intervention projects ([Melo & Alves, 2019](#)).

Community partnerships in a green economy can take many forms, including collaborations between businesses and local communities, partnerships between governments and community-based organizations, and joint ventures between community members and non-profit organizations. A shared commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection, and social responsibility can drive these partnerships. Partnerships can also provide training and support to local communities to develop the skills and knowledge needed to participate in the green economy ([International Labour Office, 2019](#)). Although numerous challenges, barriers, obstacles, and difficulties are involved, the community's involvement in authentic community partnerships is increasingly recognized as the most effective approach for community-based intervention projects ([Alves et al., 2018](#)).

In its development, the concept of community partnership has been applied to various aspects that require collaboration between multiple parties, such as in the public service sector ([Rahmat & Cahyadi, 2019](#)), health ([El Ansari & Weiss, 2006](#); [Melo & Alves, 2019](#)), agriculture ([Cahyanto et al., 2021](#); [Rahmi et al., 2017](#)), education ([Gross et al., 2015](#)) and other aspects. These

existing studies have not explored the implementation of community partnerships in green economic practices.

This study aims to analyze forms of community partnerships in green economy practices in the agricultural, forestry, and waste management sectors. These case studies include organic coffee cultivation in Aceh, honeybee farming in West Sumatra, mangrove forest conservation in East Kalimantan, and waste management in Jakarta. A detailed description of several important green economic practices is necessary because, in their implementation, many obstacles are encountered in developing and maintaining the sustainability of these economic activities. These challenges include limited markets for products produced due to disconnected networks, difficulty meeting international market quality standards, lack of driving figures, and other challenges. With community partnership, the benefits gained by the parties involved increase the potential for the sustainability of the activities. Describing a case study is a valuable lesson that should be disseminated. The partnerships formed vary according to the characteristics of the ongoing practices and the scope of the activities. This study will outline potential economic benefits raised through partnerships in a green economy.

2. Community Partnership in Green Economy: Literature Review

In recent years, community partnerships have gained recognition as an essential tool for promoting intervention and research within communities. Partnerships are structured arrangements between two or more entities with shared goals involving a formal agreement outlining roles, responsibilities, and expectations (Bray, 1999). They typically require shared decision-making and joint ownership of resources and outcomes and are longer-term commitments. In contrast, collaboration often refers to informal and temporary working relationships towards a shared objective, with members coming and going as needed (Bergstrom et al., 1996).

Community partnerships strengthen community capacity and participation in decision-making and implementation of solutions based on their needs and aspirations (Jocom et al., 2021). The concept of community partnership has the potential to be applied in various research and practice contexts, such as health, education, community empowerment, or studies on sustainable development. Partnerships involving many parties can generate innovation in various development challenges, including accessing needed resources, such as technical assistance, human resources, knowledge resources, and finance (Tim Nasional Percepatan Penanggulangan Kemiskinan (TNP2K), 2019).

Community partnership consists of two words: community and partnership. The community itself has a tiered and quite complex definition. However, this study defines the simplest community as a group with something in common. According to Ritonga et al. (2022), at least a community has several characteristics: having the same network of interests and concerns, being symbolic and physical, being part of the external household, and having something that differentiates itself from similar groups. Communities can grow or shrink according to needs and situations.

The concept of community partnership is almost the same as several community empowerment concepts that have various terminologies, namely Community and Local Development (CLD), Community Participation (CP), Community-Based Enterprises (CBEs), Local Economic Development (LED), etc. All these terminologies share a fundamental principle, namely involving groups of community entities in achieving common goals (Ebewo, 2014). However, what makes the difference is that partnerships are more active and committed than

involvement or participation. Partners share responsibility for joint activities, whereas participants may cooperate in other people's activities (Bray, 1999).

Community partnerships enhance communication and generate resources to address issues and facilitate problem-solving, creating a common understanding of collective goals. Despite challenges and obstacles, genuine community partnerships are widely accepted as best practices in community intervention projects, as they promote sustainable change through community involvement and effectively address social issues (Alves et al., 2018; Melo & Alves, 2019).

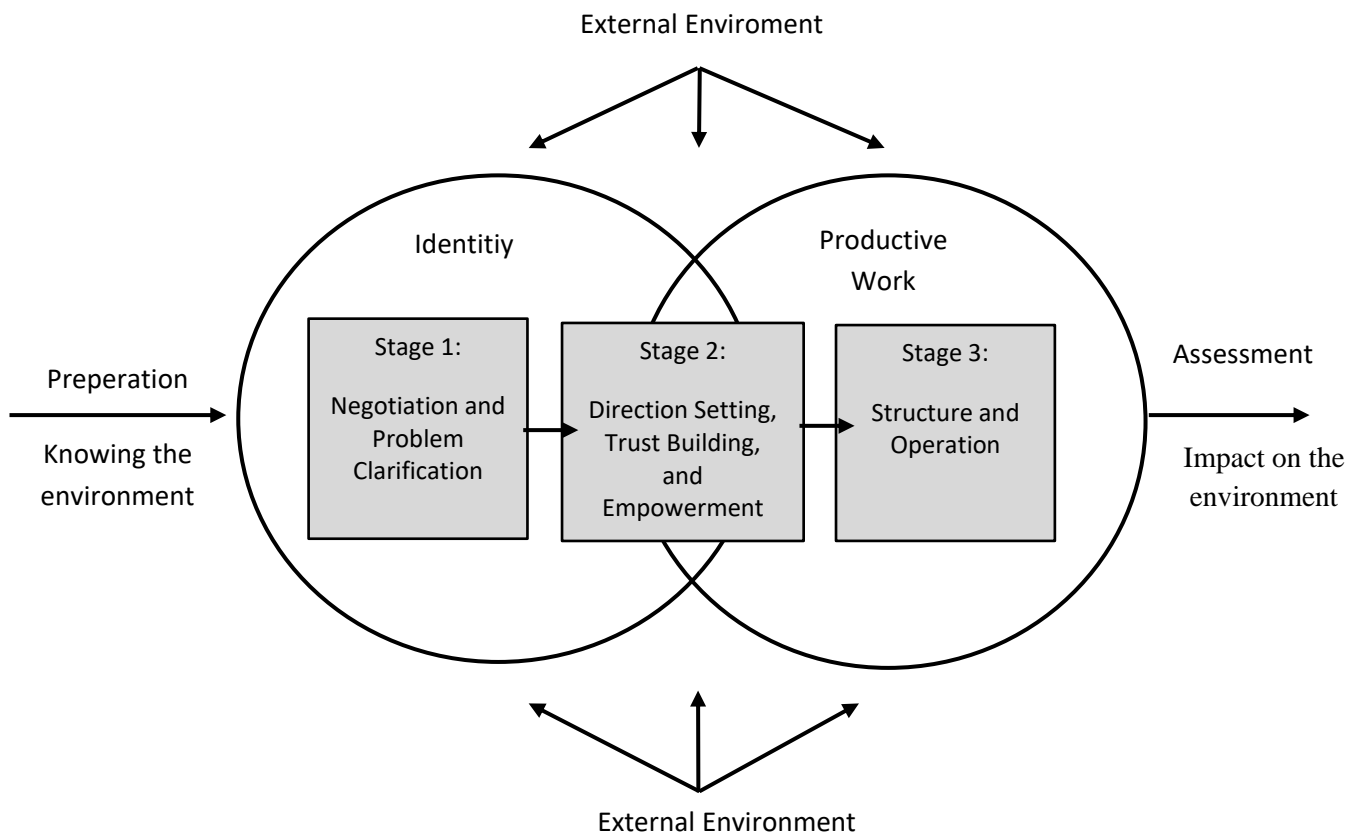


Figure 1. Framework for Partnership for Community Development

Source: Melo & Alves (2019)

In contrast to the studies that have been published by other scholars regarding community partnerships in the field of community economic empowerment (Erfit & Yulmardi, 2018; Rustinsyah, 2015), this study employs the community partnership concept developed by Habana-Hafner, Reed, and Associates in 1989, as cited by Melo & Alves (2019) (see Figure 1). This framework provides a structured overview of the critical phases of establishing effective community development partnerships. The preliminary stage, "Preparation," lays the groundwork for the subsequent stages. During this phase, the involved parties engage in preparatory activities to set the stage for successful collaboration. This includes clarifying each partner's objectives, roles, and responsibilities and ensuring a shared understanding of the endeavor's purpose. "Knowing the environment" involves a series of steps to understand the environmental circumstances associated with a project or activity. This encompasses grasping environmental factors, challenges, opportunities, community needs, and other pertinent aspects that can impact the execution of the project or activity. Through a comprehensive

understanding of the environment, informed decisions can be made, leading to implementing more effective solutions.

Following the preparation stage, the framework enters the three main stages:

- 1) **Negotiation and Problem Clarification:** This stage encompasses initial discussions and negotiations among the partners. It aims to identify and clarify the challenges and issues the partnership addresses. Clear problem identification forms the basis for effective collaboration.
- 2) **Direction Setting, Trust Building, and Empowerment:** Once challenges are understood, the focus shifts to setting a collective direction. This involves establishing shared goals and strategies. Building trust among partners also fosters an environment conducive to open communication and collaboration. Empowerment of the community also begins in this stage, intending to involve them in decision-making processes.
- 3) **Structure and Operation:** During this stage, key elements such as roles, responsibilities, and governance mechanisms are defined. The partnership's organizational structure is shaped, detailing the hierarchy, communication channels, decision-making processes, and accountability frameworks. This clarity aids in minimizing misunderstandings, streamlining communication, and enhancing overall efficiency. Additionally, operational aspects are addressed. This involves outlining how resources will be allocated, managed, and monitored to support the partnership's activities. Budgets, timelines, and performance indicators are established to ensure the partnership progresses as intended.

Afterwards, the partnership assesses its outcomes by evaluating the environmental impact. The partnership may continue or end based on the strategies and priorities (Lester et al., 2008).

In a green economy, community partnerships are crucial for sustainable economic development. They involve collaboration between local businesses, government agencies, and community organizations to promote sustainable practices and create jobs that support environmental conservation. This community's partnership model has strengths, including joint issue identification and problem-solving through trust-building. Successful partnerships require key aspects such as mutual benefit, equality, legality, empowerment, and social capital. The partnership should provide benefits to increase income, productivity, and independence, with an equal standing for both parties. A letter of agreement should regulate the partnership, aiming for empowerment and guidance rather than just capital assistance. Social capital is vital to building successful partnerships (Erfit & Yulmardi, 2018).

3. Research Methodology

This study employed a qualitative methodology involving multiple data collection techniques to gather comprehensive and insightful information (Moser & Korstjens, 2018). Specifically, in-depth interviews, direct observations, and focused group discussions (FGDs) were utilized to collect primary data directly from the participants. Additionally, secondary data collection was conducted using statistical data to provide a solid foundation for the study and corroborate the facts in the field. A qualitative approach is deemed appropriate for this research due to the well-suited nature of qualitative research methodology in providing a comprehensive understanding of a research topic (Jackson et al., 2007). Furthermore, the flexibility of qualitative research also allows for adjustments to the research questions based on new information while considering the social and cultural contexts that influence the phenomenon being studied (Holloway & Todres, 2003). These factors contribute to the findings' validity and relevance to real-world situations.

A descriptive-qualitative approach was employed to analyze the collected data, which aimed to provide a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the phenomena under investigation (Duffy, 1987). The data collected from each technique were analyzed to identify patterns, themes, and insights. To ensure the reliability and validity of the findings, a triangulation process was employed, which involved cross-checking the data and information obtained from different sources or informants. This approach is essential in qualitative research as it helps to increase the credibility of the findings by ensuring that they are consistent across different sources and informants and that the researcher's bias or perspective does not influence them.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1. The Practice of Community Partnership in Green Economy Activities

4.1.1. Community Partnership between Coffee Farmers and Cooperatives in Tanah Gayo, Aceh Province

Coffee plantations in the Gayo Highlands are environmentally friendly smallholder plantations. Coffee farming is a major occupation for most of the population in Central Aceh and Bener Meriah. It has been passed down through generations as a primary and a side job. Since the introduction of coffee farming by the Dutch colonial government, it has been done without using any chemical compounds (Iswanto et al., 2020). Although it was contaminated at some point, most coffee farming has returned to natural farming. The international market's demand for high-quality coffee beans is an important motivation for coffee farmers to protect their land from chemical compounds. In addition to the high demand for Gayo Arabica green beans, developments in the coffee industry have also revitalized the downstream sector, which includes the industrial and service sectors. The processing of coffee plantations has absorbed a lot of labor, especially from the residents.

The partnership between farmers and cooperatives has been effective since 2005, after a political conflict in Aceh (Khalisuddin et al., 2012). The flavor of Gayo Land Coffee, which was already well-known, has kept coffee enthusiasts searching for it even though the Dutch left Indonesia. At that time, coffee sales were carried out independently by farmers, where coffee traders came to each farmer, buying green coffee beans in cash or giving advances. The minimal information that farmers could access allowed these traders to freely determine the price for farmers, resulting in very low profits. Farmers did not receive enough profits from coffee exports. At that time, coffee exports could only be done through the Belawan Port in Medan, so the greatest profit went to the traders who bought coffee from farmers at a much lower price than the market price.

Coffee cooperatives have emerged as a bridge between coffee farmers and buyers, focusing on the distribution and trade of green coffee beans. This cooperative plays a central role in the development of coffee plantations, especially in marketing to the outside world. Developments in information technology have also made it possible for farmers to access information related to coffee prices and the global coffee industry. The cooperative guarantees market and good prices in line with world market prices for Gayo Arabica coffee. This has made most coffee farmers in Tanah Gayo members of the cooperative. Besides giving price guarantees, cooperatives also provide mentoring facilities for coffee farmers, including penalties for violations. This guidance is intended to monitor all farmer activities related to maintenance and post-harvesting, aiming to produce good-quality coffee following standards. This task is carried out by Internal Control System (ICS)/educational instructors who routinely

visit farmers and their plantations. The benefits of the partnership between coffee farmers and the cooperative can be seen in the following table.

Table 1. Community Partnership Benefit between Coffee Farmer and Cooperative

Coffee Farmer	Coffee Cooperative
Cooperatives provide market certainty for coffee farmers' harvest results.	Organic Arabica Gayo coffee is a commodity with high market demand, thus benefiting the cooperative.
Cooperatives transfer scientific knowledge advancements in managing coffee.	The productivity of the coffee produced by the farmers is stable.
Cooperative is a function of control to ensure the land remains organic.	The quality of coffee as an export commodity is guaranteed by its organic certification.
Through the intermediary of the cooperative, the coffee market becomes wider with good prices.	The wider the market coverage, the higher the profit for the cooperative.

Source: Primary Field Data (2022)

The partnership model between coffee farmers and cooperatives is a form of community partnership that already has a formal cooperation structure outlined in the cooperative's bylaws. According to [Melo & Alves \(2019\)](#), stages one and two have been carried out over a long period. Stage one occurs when coffee farmers register their plots as cooperative members. At this stage, the cooperative clarifies the farmers' registered land and checks its ownership, physical condition, and coffee plants. Coffee farmers who have previously used chemical fertilizers must purify their land, which takes one to three years. Farmers are also informed of their rights and obligations as cooperative members. Although the relationship between cooperatives and coffee farmers is not equal, in many ways, coffee farmers have a lot of freedom, such as the freedom to sell their coffee to the cooperative and to anyone who offers the best price.

In the second stage, planning is carried out between coffee farmers and cooperatives related to the activities that will be carried out. This includes schedules and certification processes, production planning based on production and sales in the previous year, seed provision, and other technical matters. Even though the cooperative already has clear bylaws for the third stage, the cooperation structure and technical details can still be adjusted according to the ongoing conditions. For example, when distributing premium fees given by buyers to farmers through cooperatives, there is always a renegotiation between the cooperative and the farmers' representatives. This agreement is formed based on the existing situation and conditions.

Many cooperatives are engaged in the coffee trade with different scales and markets. Based on interviews with Cooperatives Service in Central Aceh, more than 20 coffee cooperatives already have market networks in the United States, Europe, Japan, China, Australia, Canada, and several other countries. Gayo coffee has a special place in the hearts of coffee connoisseurs around the world, so for some time, Gayo coffee prices have been higher than the monthly average price in the New York market for Other Mild Arabicas (\$3.2), reaching \$4.3 per kilogram ([Taufiq, 2021](#)). This condition cannot be separated from the good partnership between cooperatives and coffee farmers. Coffee farmers maintain the quality of coffee, and the cooperatives maintain and expand the existing market.

4.1.2. Community Partnership in the Cultivation of Galo-galo Honeybees in Sawahlunto City, West Sumatra

Stingless beekeeping is gaining popularity in Indonesia as the COVID-19 pandemic increases demand for honey. The Galo-galo honeybee farming group in West Sumatra stands out for its creative leader, who formed a community partnership with Kebun Buah Kandi (an educational recreation area, to introduce various kinds of fruits as a need for nutritional intake. Marginal land of ex-coal mining used for horticulture crops). This partnership supports social, economic, and ecological aspects.

Kebun Buah Kandi, a plant breeding Service Technical Implementation Unit in Sawahlunto city, has been converted into a distinctive tourist spot on a 3.1-hectare former mining site with Kandi Lake as its backdrop. It started in 2012 and has approximately 719 fruit trees, including soursop, passion fruit, jackfruit, guava, and dragon fruit. Since its inception, the establishment has distributed over 6,061 dragon fruit seedlings and other fruit seeds to the community. Kebun Buah Kandi is not just a tourist attraction but also an educational facility where visitors can learn about various types of bees, their breeding methods, and even harvest honey directly from the beehives. It boasts a collection of cultivated fruit trees, and the partnership with the Galo-galo honeybee farmers' group is a visitor attraction.

In 2020, Forest Farmers Group "Kayu Gadang" and Kebun Buah Kandi leaders formed a community collaboration partnership to pool resources and foster community involvement in problem-solving. The partnership established a mutually beneficial relationship between the two organizations' business operations. Introducing Galo-galo honeybees into the Kandi Fruit Garden resulted in increased natural flower pollination and higher fruit yields. Furthermore, this partnership allows Galo-galo honeybee breeders to showcase their products to garden visitors (refer to [Table 2](#)).

Table 2. The benefits of the partnership between Forest Farmers Group "Kayu Gadang" and Kebun Buah Kandi

Kebun Buah Kandi	Forest Farmers Group "Kayu Gadang"
Improving fruit plant productivity (flower set) through pollination by bees.	The land is available for Galo-galo honey bee cultivation.
Regular tourist visits increase.	The availability of bee food is sufficient from the flowers of fruit plants.
Demand for visits by certain community groups (groups) increases.	Various promotional media and marketing are available for products at the Kebun Buah Kandi outlet.
Income increases from tourist ticket sales.	The business network is becoming wider.
The vision as one of the means of education for the community is achieved.	The practice of agri-tourism imparts knowledge about the intricacies of honeybee farming to visitors of Kebun Buah Kandi.

Source: Primary Field Data (2022)

The Forest Farmers Group "Kayu Gadang" and Kebun Buah Kandi collaboration exemplifies a community partnership concept outlined by [Melo & Alves \(2019\)](#). The partnership began with a preparatory phase that included environmental research, such as identifying problems, exploring environmental factors, and defining membership. The Head of the Service

Technical Implementation Unit of Kebun Buah Kandi and the Head of Forest Farmers Group “Kayu Gadang,” initiated the partnership through personal connections. During stage 1, the leaders informally discussed and negotiated, identifying potential opportunities to benefit both organizations while assessing their problems.

Moving to stage 2, the partnership proceeds to the planning phase, where both parties work together to establish trust. Trust is critical for successful community partnerships between members and external agents (Teufel-Shone et al., 2019). Once trust is established, technical and structural aspects of the partnership are designed, including technical operations, profit sharing, personnel, risk mitigation, and other relevant agreements. These agreements are formalized in a memorandum of understanding. Technically, placing honeybee hives under fruit trees presented no significant issues except determining the optimal distance between hives for the most efficient land use.

Partnerships operate within a dynamic and persistent external environment, including geography, history, politics, economics, power structures, and ethnic and cultural diversity (Melo & Alves, 2019). An example of an external environmental factor that impacted the partnership between Kebun Buah Kandi and Forest Farmers Group “Kayu Gadang” was the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to government social distancing policies, Kebun Buah Kandi closed to tourist visits, which impacted the income of both parties. However, this situation did not terminate the partnership. Strong communication, interpersonal relationships, commitment, and trust enabled a persistent approach to external environmental conditions.

Stage 3 of the partnership involves an evaluation of the impact of the partnership on the social and physical environment, and it may end depending on strategies to address initial problems or other issues (Lester et al., 2008). To maintain sustainable partnerships, joint reflection is crucial to assess the level of collaboration among members and whether efforts have been maximized (Lester et al., 2008). Strategic program planning and resources are also important for maintaining collaboration, with short-term and long-term planning needed to identify emerging trends and issues and develop necessary strategies (Bergstrom et al., 1996). Forest Farmers Group “Kayu Gadang” innovates by creating processed honey products such as health drinks, beauty soaps, and medical bandages. Kebun Buah Kandi is also promoting tourism to the wider community, including students and community groups, after the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.1.3. Mangrove Communities Partnership and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in East Kalimantan

East Kalimantan has a sizable mangrove ecosystem, a vital habitat for diverse flora and fauna (Choong et al., 1990; Kristiningrum et al., 2020). In addition, the mangroves provide significant resources to local communities, including opportunities for fishing, crabbing, shrimp harvesting, and tourism. However, the survival of mangroves in East Kalimantan is currently at risk due to several serious threats, most notably land encroachment and water pollution (Ilman et al., 2016; Powell & Osbeck, 2010). Therefore, all stakeholders must collaborate to safeguard these vital ecosystems by instituting sustainable policies and practices encompassing stringent adherence to laws and regulations and community-based partnership initiatives to bolster environmental conservation efforts. This work is necessary to keep mangrove ecosystems healthy and stable, ensuring they will be around for future generations.

In recent years, CSR activities have become increasingly important for companies in Indonesia as they seek to promote sustainable development and strengthen their relationships with local communities (Herawati, 2018; Masrunik et al., 2021; Rondinelli & Berry, 2000). The

partnerships between companies and local communities in East Kalimantan are a great example of how corporations can work together to achieve mutually beneficial goals, such as preserving the environment and promoting economic growth. Companies can better understand community needs and priorities by collaborating with local stakeholders, enhancing their reputation, and contributing to social and environmental sustainability.

Partnerships have been formed to manage the Mangrove Center Graha Indah - Balikpapan and the Muara Badak - Kutai Kartanegara mangrove area due to limited funding from the local government and environmental issues surrounding business operations. Green partnerships, like the one between PT Badak LNG and Pertamina, aim to improve the ability to manage conservation areas by improving governance and management resources with help from private and community partners (Kim et al., 2016; Sunaryo et al., 2014). These types of partnerships are becoming increasingly popular as they allow for a more comprehensive approach to environmental conservation, combining the resources and expertise of different stakeholders. Working together, these partnerships can help to develop and implement effective conservation strategies, promote sustainable resource use, and create economic opportunities that benefit both the environment and local communities. The partnerships involve stakeholders, including local and central governments, NGOs, educational institutions, and private and state-owned companies as funders.

Table 3. The Benefits of Mangrove Communities Partnership and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in East Kalimantan

Mangrove Community	Company's CSR
Education for communities residing in mangrove areas.	Enhancing the company's image.
Increasing fishery production in mangrove waters.	Enhancing the public perception of a company's brand image.
Restoring and preserving the mangrove ecosystem.	Distinguishing the company from its competitors through green partnerships.
Establishment of mangrove-based tourism destinations.	Establishing company collaborations with partners in other fields (such as tourism).
Increase in tourist visits to mangrove areas.	Increasing competitive advantages.

Source: Primary Field Data (2022)

The first stage of working with mangrove communities involves identifying existing problems (Melo & Alves, 2019). For instance, in the Mangrove Center Graha Indah and Kampung Nelayan Berdasi, the primary issue was a lack of financial support to manage the mangrove areas, which included purchasing seeds, maintaining existing mangrove forests, cleaning water areas from debris, repairing damaged plants, and providing infrastructure for educational activities. Similarly, the Muara Badak - Kutai Kartanegara mangrove area faced significant challenges related to environmental destruction. In this initial stage, companies aim to identify problems, opportunities, and challenges to benefit both the community in the mangrove area and the company.

During the second stage of community partnership, mutual trust is established to create a foundation for success. The partnership agreement in Mangrove Center Graha Indah and Kampung Nelayan Berdasi involves companies' detailed planning and resource provision,

identification of community roles, and agreements on complex matters such as logo displays for community empowerment. This partnership results in sustainable mangrove areas, active community participation, and benefits for both parties while positively impacting the company's environmental promotion. In the Muara Badak partnership, both parties agree on mutually beneficial terms, with community empowerment being the primary focus. The community refrains from harmful behavior, such as bombing to catch fish, and companies provide training and education for alternative jobs to prepare the area for educational tourism. Mutual agreement and benefits are essential, and once agreed upon, the company can empower the community in the mangrove area (see [Table 3](#)).

In the third stage of community partnership, companies encourage sustainable practices and community empowerment programs, such as mangrove seedling planting, maintenance, and environmental protection. Additionally, community involvement in educational tourism and secondary product production is encouraged. Success in this stage relies on clear implementation plans and environmental impact evaluations. The Mangrove Center Graha Indah and Kampung Nelayan Berdasi have experienced a reduction in environmental damage and successful community empowerment, resulting in positive exposure for the companies.

4.1.4. Community Partnership in Waste Management in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta

Over the past decade, the Special Capital Region of Jakarta has experienced a population growth of 954 thousand individuals, corresponding to an annual average increase of 88 thousand people ([Badan Pusat Statistik, 2021](#)). The number could be much higher because there are 1.1 million commuters in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta ([Badan Pusat Statistik, 2019](#)). The impact of population size on waste generation is well-established. For instance, the daily amount of waste produced can surpass 7,695.9 tons, resulting in an annual figure of 2.8 million tons transported to the final landfill in Bantar Gebang ([Megapolitan, 2022](#)). However, current measurements of the landfill zones reveal that only 5 of the 12 available zones are still operative, with the remaining 7 reaching maximum capacity and no longer able to accommodate additional waste.

Furthermore, the average waste height in the remaining zones has surpassed 90% of the landfill capacity, heightening the potential for environmental and public health hazards. Despite recycling efforts, such as composting activities and the Waste Power Plant, only 1% of the total waste generation is being processed through these means. Consequently, this critical circumstance jeopardizes the ecological carrying capacity and increases the risk of landslides, particularly during the rainy season.

Innovative waste management practices are necessary to address the escalating problem of waste production. A community partnership approach initiated by the government involves several programs to encourage community and business participation in waste reduction and management. A new paradigm of the Reduce-Sorting-Recycle is replacing the conventional approach of Collect-Transport-Dispose. Policy efforts towards implementing this new paradigm include issuing Governor Regulations, such as Number 142 of 2019, prohibiting single-use plastic bags, and Instructions, such as Number 107 of 2019, promoting waste management within the Special Capital Region of Jakarta Provincial Government. In the Industry area, Governor Regulations Number 102 of 2021 requires industrial estates to manage their waste. Waste management policies have also started at the neighborhood level through Governor Regulations Number 77 of 2020. Another regulation is waste management policies also encompass waste processing practices, with Governor Regulation Number 22 of 2021

concerning Waste Banks and Instruction of the Head of the Environmental Service Number 116 of 2020 regarding the implementation of organic waste reduction using the Black Soldier Fly (BSF)/Maggot bioconversion method in the province of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta.

The enforcement of these regulations necessitates community engagement in waste management rather than relying solely on government intervention (refer to [Figure 2](#)). Waste sorting awareness must be disseminated at all levels, including households, industries, and the government. The sorting process entails segregating waste into organic, inorganic, B3 waste (toxic and hazardous materials), and residual waste. Organic waste can be managed through composting, BSF/Magot, or bio pores at the household level. Waste Banks are established within the community to handle other types of organic waste. B3 hazardous waste necessitates specialized treatment, with electronic waste requiring dissimilating techniques and processing at designated locations managed by electronic waste disposal companies. This joint work aims to decrease waste accumulation, enhance environmental conditions, and promote economic benefits supporting green economy practices.

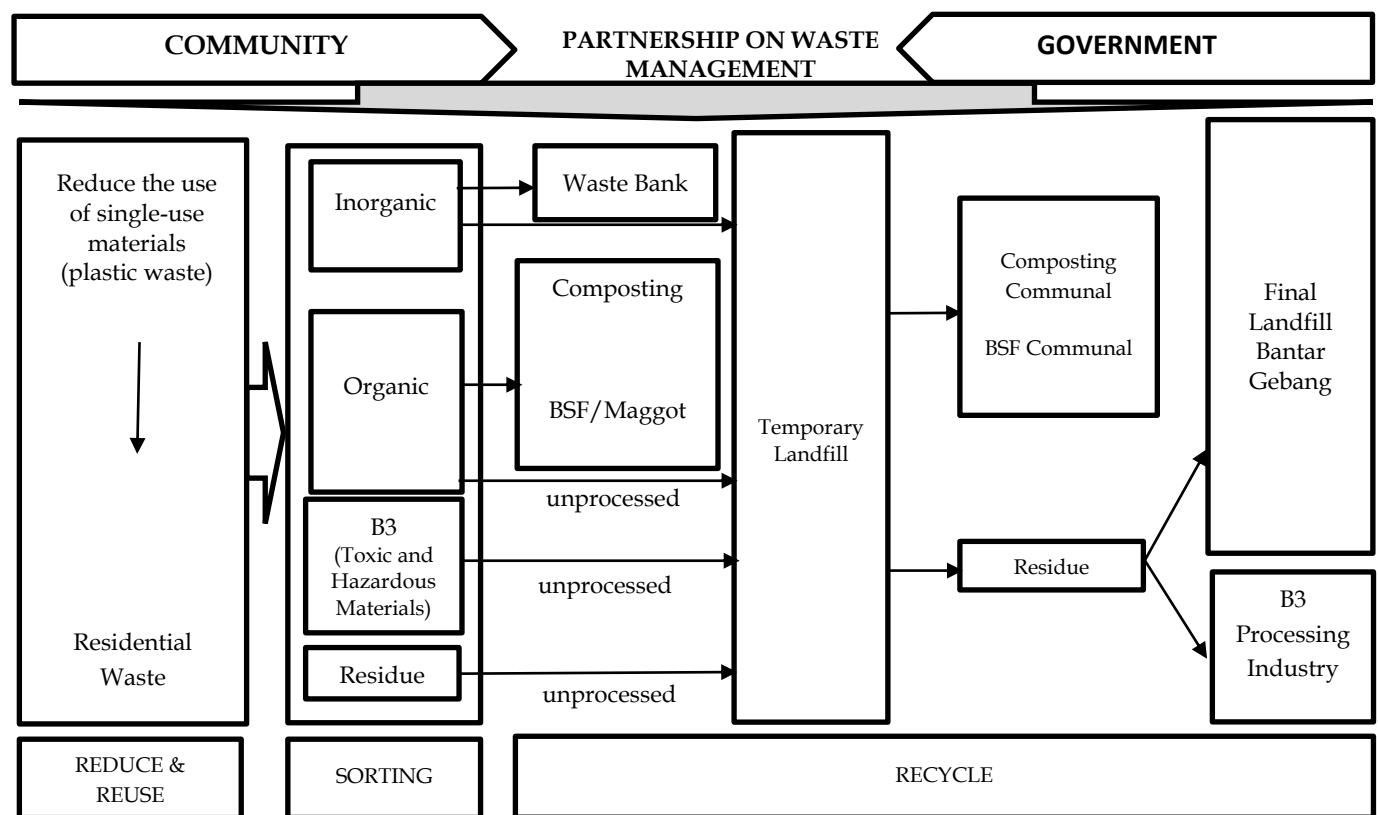


Figure 2. Partnership Model on Waste Management in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta
Source: Primary Field Data (2022)

Within waste management, an initial step involves recognizing the significant waste production issue in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta. This study found that residents' behavior in reducing and sorting waste largely relies on their level of environmental consciousness and depends on how the family, school, and neighborhood provide good environmental protection, including managing waste (Ningrum et al., 2022). This finding aligns with a previous study that school interventions in the form of reinforcement can effectively reduce waste, incorporating incentives and consequences to enhance student responses toward

the environment (Ningrum et al., 2022). Thus, implementing reward and punishment policies effectively modifies waste management practices.

In the context of waste management, this study examines the implementation of program planning and community empowerment initiatives. The Government of the Special Capital Region of Jakarta set up a waste task force at the neighborhood level, encouraging residents to sort waste at home and ensuring that the sorted waste is according to the schedule. Since the task force's introduction in 2021, the government claims that it has been credited with enabling 10% of households in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta to sort their waste. Regarding Waste Banks, the government supports infrastructure, training, and an initial budget for operating Waste Banks. In addition, the availability of temporary landfills that facilitate the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3R) process is crucial for waste management at the neighborhood level. The data reveals that such facilities and infrastructure availability are concentrated in South Jakarta and East Jakarta, predominantly managed by the community.

On the other hand, NGOs play a significant role in waste management in North Jakarta, with only 2% of waste managed by the community. This study highlights the importance of raising citizens' awareness about waste segregation as a crucial waste reduction and management effort. It suggests that communities with well-established social institutions and high community participation in waste management demonstrate successful waste reduction practices.

4.2. Community Partnership Models in Various Types

Community partnerships vary depending on the location and the challenges faced by the community. In Aceh's agriculture sector, coffee farmers prioritize economic concerns by meeting international market demand through organic farming methods, which fetch a higher price and provide market guarantees. Organic farming methods also reduce production costs by extending the lifespan of coffee plants. In contrast, the Special Capital Region of Jakarta's waste management, West Sumatra's agriculture sector, and East Kalimantan's forestry sector face environmental issues. The Special Capital Region of Jakarta has a high volume of waste generation, limited landfill capacity, and an increasing population, leading to community-based waste reduction efforts. Similarly, mangrove ecosystems in East Kalimantan are degrading due to human activities, worsened by a lack of awareness among local communities.

Meanwhile, the high production demand for Galo-galo honey bee breeders in West Sumatra caused environmental issues. To address these challenges, they partnered with Kebun Buah Kandi to cultivate land with enough food sources for bees, increasing honey production and pollinating fruit trees. The success of these partnerships can inspire the design and implementation of community partnership programs in different sectors and regions.

This research classifies community partnerships into three types based on the challenges encountered in each region: partnerships arising from government policies or programs, partnerships originating from community initiatives to raise community awareness, and partnerships from production activities initiated by companies. In the Special Capital Region of Jakarta's waste management, the partnership involves the implementation of government policies and programs to encourage behavioral changes in household waste management, including waste sorting, reducing the use of single-use plastics, composting organic waste, and collecting inorganic waste through a waste bank. The Special Capital Region of Jakarta Environmental Services established task forces to socialize the program and ensure residents sort their waste. Additionally, the partnership implements waste bank programs, community composting, and temporary waste disposal management to enhance collective agency and

“power with” in waste management at the city level (Rowlands, 1997; Sirdey & Lallau, 2020). Collective action in this partnership also means increasing solidarity to build individual awareness for making changes toward environmental sustainability (Brugere et al., 2020; Rowlands, 1997).

The second type of community partnership, which focuses on raising community awareness, is exemplified in the agriculture sectors of Aceh and West Sumatra. In West Sumatra, the Forest Farmers Group “Kayu Gadang” and Kebun Buah Kandi partnership prioritize mutual benefit, equality, legality, empowerment, and social capital built on a trust established over time. Similarly, the partnership between coffee farmers and cooperatives in Aceh is based on mutual dependency, as farmers rely on cooperatives to conduct buying and selling processes with price certainty and good payment processes and to avoid negative experiences in the past where traders or collectors cheated farmers. These partnerships highlight the importance of community-driven initiatives in building strong and mutually beneficial relationships. Involving local communities in green partnerships ensures that conservation efforts align with local needs and promote fair sharing of benefits. In addition, community involvement builds trust, fosters ownership, and leads to more effective conservation efforts and better environmental and community outcomes (McGranahan & Mitlin, 2016).

The third type of community partnership is exemplified by the CSR initiatives of companies operating in the forestry sector of East Kalimantan. These programs aim to empower local communities by fostering participation in preserving and managing mangrove ecosystems. Specifically, they focus on restoring degraded areas, establishing nurseries, and creating eco-tourism and sustainable fisheries to provide new livelihood opportunities. By promoting sustainable development, environmental conservation, and community empowerment, these partnerships aim to preserve ecosystem services and collaborate with stakeholders for a sustainable future. Community empowerment enables local communities to shape their development and promote self-reliance (Chapin et al., 2016).

This research distinguishes between two types of partnerships: those involving a single community and those involving a group of communities in a particular area and sector. The cases in Aceh, West Sumatra, and East Kalimantan’s agriculture and forestry sectors exemplify partnerships involving a single homogeneous community. In Aceh, the community partnership between farmers and cooperatives involves many cooperatives and thousands of farmers. In West Sumatra, the partnership focuses on the participants’ activities in Galo-galo honeybee breeders. These insights can inform the design and implementation of effective community partnership programs in various sectors and locations.

The case in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta’s waste management is a community partnership that involves a group of communities in a particular area. The waste management case study reveals that community partnerships involve groups formed collectively by specific geographic areas or certain interests. The diversity of communities within the Special Capital Region of Jakarta provides resources and challenges waste management practices. Economic, social, and demographic characteristics influence partnership practices, with middle-class communities having higher social institutions, resulting in better waste management programs.

The goals set by the community highly determine various green economic practices in society. The forms of partnership and involvement of each actor also vary depending on the four green economic practice cases. However, these four practices can be implemented when there is a shared consciousness between the community and other external parties, both in problem identification and pooling resources from the community and external entities. For

instance, in the case of waste management in Jakarta, the community, businesses, and the government share a common vision of reducing the increasing amount of waste. The social system within the community helps coordinate waste segregation efforts. At the same time, companies contribute by providing waste management technologies, and the government establishes legal regulations and infrastructure provisions for waste management in the city. In the context of plantations, coffee farmers and cooperatives collaborate to uphold coffee quality, ensuring continued global market demand. This preservation of quality safeguards economic benefits for both parties, fostering a strong partnership based on the shared goal of achieving higher profits. Moreover, increasing financial gains indirectly promotes better and more natural environmental conservation.

In the forestry sector, companies and communities have a shared vision to enhance and preserve the environmental sustainability of the location. This program benefits both parties, with the establishment of a sustainable environment around the production site and the local community being able to receive its advantages. Meanwhile, both parties get economically and ecologically balanced benefits from the green economic practice of Galo-galo honey bee cultivation. The orchard provides cultivation land for Galo-galo honey bees to benefit from increased fruit production assisted by bee pollination. Meanwhile, the availability of food for honey bees is fulfilled by the flowers of fruit plants, so the production of honey produced by bees also increases.

Environmental conditions, social systems, government regulations, culture, and demographics influence community partnership processes. A limitation of this study is that the author did not compare the green economic practices with those in other developing countries. Nevertheless, the description of green economic practices presented in this study provides an overview of the community partnership processes across various sectors in diverse locations in Indonesia.

Table 4. Partnership Model

Actors	Roles	Supporting Factors
Local Community	Identifying various issues experienced by the community, Most of the issues raised are related to the environment, economy, and social justice. Gathering various resources possessed by the community.	The social system that is established within society. The presence of influential figures at the community level.
Business	Collaborating with the local community to identify their problems and create programs or assistance to address them.	As support for the company's main business activities, for example, raw material provider. Management policies in CSR activities enhance the intrinsic value of the company.
Government	Formulating policies to provide legal recognition for	Legal regulations to support green economic practices at

Actors	Roles	Supporting Factors
	green economic practices within the community. Collaborating with various actors to provide support in terms of infrastructure and funding.	the local level. Budget allocation for empowering local economies for green economic practices.
NGO	Providing training and mentoring for implementing green economic practices.	Alignment of vision among NGOs in local-level green economic development.

Source: Primary Field Data (2022)

The collaboration of partnership activities involving various actors can be observed through various stages, starting from identifying the issues to be addressed by the community (negotiation and problem identification) to the working methods within the partnership activities (building trust, structure, and operation green economy practice). Both local communities, business actors, government, and NGOs are actively involved in various partnership activities, as shown in **Table 4**. The local community addresses environmental, economic, and social justice issues by identifying challenges, engaging influencers, and utilizing resources. Mostly, the local community plays a pivotal role and acts as the owners of the shared objects. Businesses collaborate, provide assistance, and act as raw material providers. Governments formulate policies and regulations and allocate budgets for green economic practices. NGOs offer training, mentoring, and vision alignment for local green economic development. This holistic approach drives positive change and sustainability in the community.

Empowerment within the context of partnership can be understood as the strength and capacity that enables a community to achieve a better quality of life. Community empowerment can be observed through three dimensions: the personal dimension, the relational dimension, and the collective dimension (Rowlands, 1997). The personal dimension of empowerment involves developing self-confidence and individual capacity to overcome internalized oppression. For example, in the case of agriculture, it means enhancing farmers' abilities to engage in organic farming. Waste management involves increasing household knowledge on transforming waste into valuable resources. The relational dimension encompasses the ability to negotiate and influence the nature of relationships. This includes the relationships between farmers and consumers or between farmers and traders. On the other hand, the collective dimension refers to individuals working together to achieve a broader impact beyond what they can achieve individually.

5. Conclusion

Community partnership is an instrument for community empowerment for establishing green economy practices. Collaborative efforts between two or more parties are implemented in various practices, including agriculture, forestry, and waste management. These initiatives aim to enhance community welfare through economic activities while considering environmental sustainability, equitable economic benefits, and the active involvement of the community in decision-making processes. This study identified three key characteristics of community partnerships in green economy practices. Firstly, community partnerships aim to raise

awareness of the issues at hand. The topics related to green economy practices typically revolve around economic problems, such as limited market access, and environmental issues, such as decreased land productivity, ecological damage from industrial activities, and the generation of waste that pollutes the environment.

Secondly, community partnership is a collective action based on cooperation rather than competition. Collaboration can occur between community members, the community and the government, or the community and companies. The partnership process emphasizes the community's active role in raising awareness of problems and its capacity to make decisions to solve them and dismantling negative social constructions so that people see themselves as having the ability and the right to act and influence decisions. Collective action can be focused locally, for example, on farmers' communities or groups working at the village or neighborhood level or more institutionalized and on a larger scale, such as waste management movements at the city level.

Thirdly, community self-sufficiency increases in partnership activities to improve economic welfare, such as coffee farmers and honey groups, where agriculture is the community's main livelihood. Meanwhile, partnership programs in communities aimed at preserving the environment and not directly dependent on community livelihood activities still rely on assistance from main partners such as mangrove management in East Kalimantan and waste management in the Special Capital Region of Jakarta. Based on the cases studied, a factor that strongly supports the partnership process is the presence of a social institution built within the community. The more established the social institution, the more the empowerment process through a partnership is directed toward empowerment. Therefore, creating a robust social institution within the community is the first step in implementing community partnership activities to support green economy practices in Indonesia's communities.

The recommendation offered from the study is the need to build a collaborative system between communities, government, and private sectors to strengthen green economy practices that have been developed within the community. This system strengthening can be done through policy incentives for companies to empower communities in green economic practices, the commitment of local governments to prioritize green-based development, and strengthening social institutions within the community as drivers of the community in developing green economic activities. Overall, The study's social implications carry valuable insights for implementing green economic practices at the local level. Moreover, from an academic standpoint, it can contribute to advancing partnership models within community development in the context of green economic activities.

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The authors have declared no potential conflicts of interest concerning this article's research, authorship, and/or publication.

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